

REMARKS

The Office Action does not acknowledge a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d), which is contained in the Declaration and Power of Attorney.

Submitted herewith is a copy of the postcard receipt showing that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office acknowledged receipt of the Certified Copy of Priority Document on December 5, 2000. Acknowledgment of our claim for foreign priority and receipt of the priority document is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-6 are allowed.

Claims 7, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,661,454 to Hwang et al. (hereinafter "Hwang").

It is not clear in the Office Action as to whether the Examiner accepts or objects to the drawings. Applicants respectfully request clarification. Please note that the original drawings filed in the patent application are "formal" drawings.

The objection to the title of the invention as not being descriptive is noted and a new title is presented in this amendment which is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been amended to improve the form thereof. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections

The rejection of claims 7, 8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Hwang patent, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claim 7 of the present invention recites a digital camera comprising:

“a plurality of mounting portions to each of which a recording is mounted;
a mode setting member which is operated to set a mode from among a plurality of selection modes, in each of said plurality of selection modes the mounting portion to be accessed being selected from among said plurality of mounting portions; and
a selector which selects one of said mounting portions to be accessed from among said plurality of mounting portions in accordance with the selection mode set by the operation of said mode setting member.”

As specifically described in the specification of the present application, the digital camera recited in claim 7 of the present invention, has three selection modes to select the slot to be accessed. The first mode is a fixed mode in which a predetermined slot is selected as the slot to be accessed from among the two slots 41a and 41b. The information indicating the predetermined slot is stored in the ROM 18 in advance, and is stored in the RAM 19 when the system is powered up. The second mode is a priority mode in which the slot in which a memory card was first mounted is selected as the slot to be accessed from between the two slots 41a and 41b. The third mode is a manual operation mode in which one slot is selected as the slot to be accessed from between the two slots 41a and 41b by the user operating the operation switches 6 as desired. Since there are three selection modes and any of the three modes may be set based on the user operation as described above, the mode from which to select the slot to be accessed may be activated based on the user's desires, which contributes to making the digital camera 1 easy to use. (See line 14 on page 15 to line 24 on page 17 and lines 15 to 19 on page 25 of the specification of the present application.)

While, Hwang et al discloses a digital camera having a first memory card slot 30 and a second memory card slot 56 each of which is electrically connected to the memory card interface 32. The memory cards 28 and 58 are respectively accommodated in the first memory card slot 30 and the second memory card slot 56. (FIG. 4 of the Hwang patent) As stated in the Office Action, Hwang et al teaches that the user, through the user

inputs 48, can select which of the memory cards 28 or 56 is to be used for storing captured images (Please see column 5, lines 62 to 65 of the Hwang patent), but it does not teach nor suggest any other selection mode than the selection mode through user inputs 48. Hwang et al only discloses a single selection mode in which the memory card to be used is selected by the user through the user inputs 48. Hwang et al does not disclose a mode setting member which is operated to set a mode from among a plurality of selection modes, in each of which the mounting portion to be accessed being selected from among the plurality of mounting portions, nor a selector which selects one of the mounting portions to be accessed from among the plurality of mounting portions in accordance with the selection mode set by the operation of the mode setting member as claimed in claim 7 of the present invention. Accordingly, claim 7 of the present invention should be allowable.

Further, claims 8 and 10 which depend from claim 7 should be also allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 7, 8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Hwang patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted that because claim 7 is allowable for at least the reasons provided above, claim 9 is not dependent upon a rejected base class. Accordingly, the objection to claim 9 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims.

Application No. 09/730,451
Amendment dated September 21, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2004

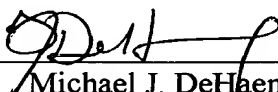
Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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